

# BACK TO PRABHUPĀDA

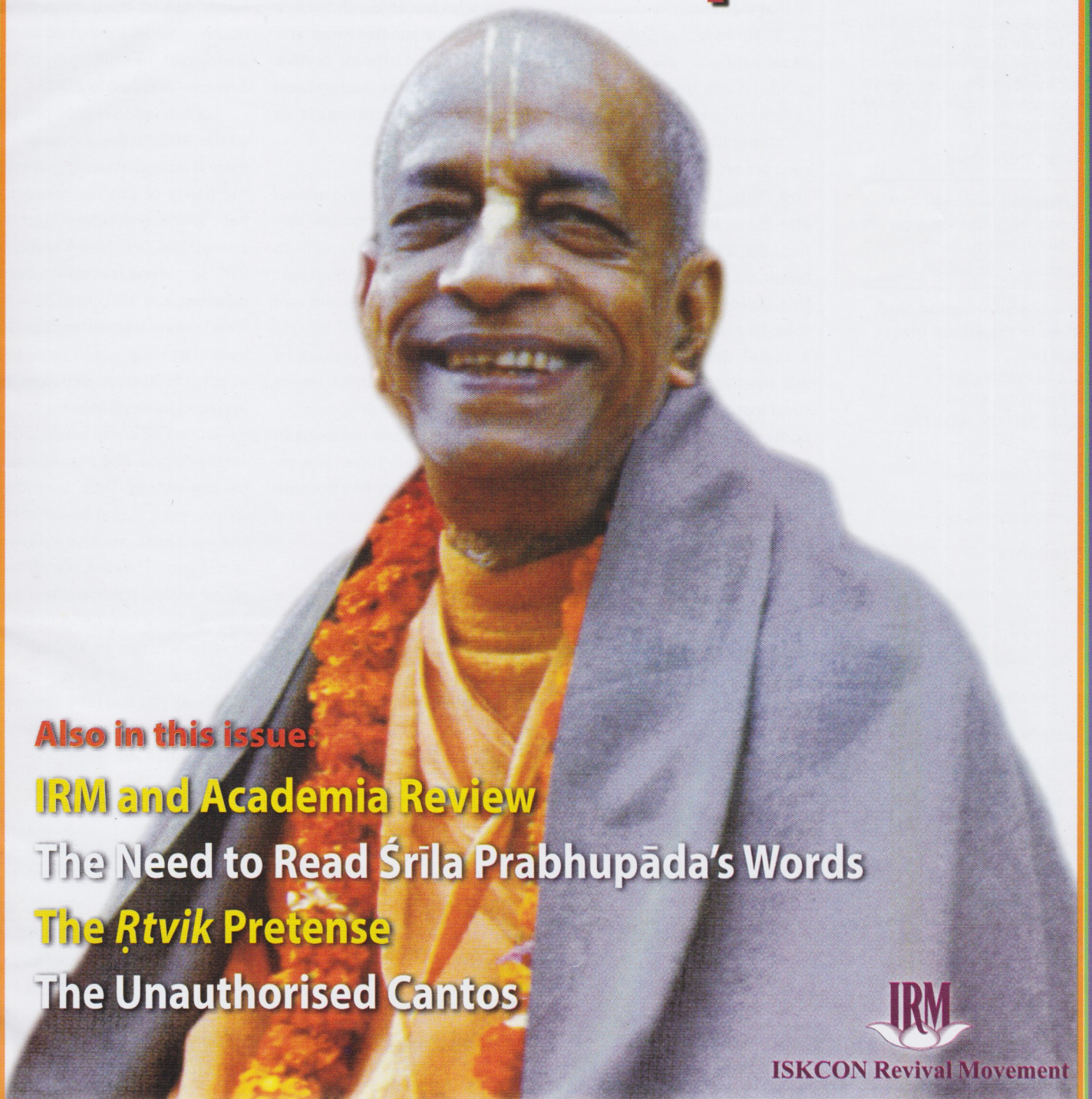
The Magazine of the Real Hare Kṛṣṇa Movement

Issue 51, Spring 2016

*"Defeating Tyranny in the Realm of Thought"*

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## Surrendering to Śrīla Prabhupāda



**Also in this issue:**

**IRM and Academia Review**

**The Need to Read Śrīla Prabhupāda's Words**

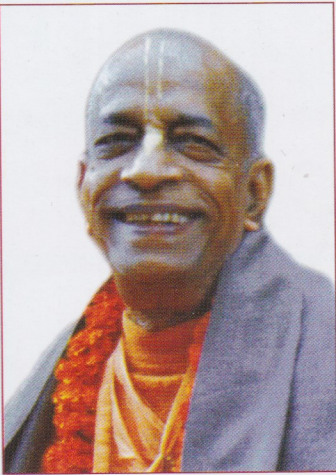
**The *R̥tvik* Pretense**

**The Unauthorised Cantos**



ISKCON Revival Movement





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### Published quarterly

Founded under the inspiration of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupāda, Founder-Ācārya, International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)

Editor: Krishnakant

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# Understanding the Philosophy

Welcome to Issue 51 of *Back To Prabhupāda (BTP)*.

1) One may argue that those who have come to ISKCON have undergone a great journey and made a momentous choice. With so many philosophies available in Kali-yuga (the current 'Age of Quarrel') to mislead people, it would appear that such persons have done very well to choose Śrīla Prabhupāda's teachings over every other path as *the* path to surrender to. And this should be all that matters.

2) However, as Śrīla Prabhupāda explains, everything depends on *why* the choice to take to Krishna consciousness is made:

**"Generally, materialistic persons are after some name, fame and material gain, so if someone takes to Kṛṣṇa consciousness for these reasons, he will never be able to understand this philosophy. Such persons take to religious principles as a social decoration. They admit themselves into some cultural institution for the sake of name only, especially in this age. Such persons also cannot understand the philosophy of Kṛṣṇa consciousness."**

(SB., 3.32.40, emphasis added)

Śrīla Prabhupāda explains:

- a) People may take to Krishna consciousness for the sake of name only;
- b) That "especially in this age", such a thing happens;
- c) And if this is done, such persons will not understand the phi-

losophy of Krishna consciousness.

Thus, for example, one could take to Krishna consciousness to get some name or gain for oneself by desiring to become some type of leader or guru. Or desiring to become a famous *kirtana* singer or preacher. Or desiring to become a philanthropist who gains even greater name and fame, as then one is also recognised outside of ISKCON as well. And so on.

3) Śrīla Prabhupāda states:

**"Also, there are so-called disciples who become submissive to a spiritual master most artificially, with an ulterior motive. They also cannot understand what Kṛṣṇa consciousness or devotional service is."**

(SB., 3.32.40)

Thus, even those who appear to be "followers" or "humble" devotees can be just as susceptible to taking to Krishna consciousness for the wrong reasons, and consequently they also will be unable to understand the philosophy of Krishna consciousness. Hence, Śrīla Prabhupāda states:

**"At the present moment in this age of Kali-yuga, the entire human society has become an assembly of cheaters and cheated."**

(SB., 4.26.6)

And on page 13 of this issue, we give a case study of how the cheaters and cheated arise in ISKCON today, due to not reading Śrīla Prabhupāda's words.

4) Thus, the conclusion is that if people have taken to Krishna

consciousness only for name and gain, then they "cannot understand the philosophy of Krishna consciousness". Hence, if we find that those who are purporting to practise Krishna consciousness do not actually understand the philosophy, this is a sign that they may have taken to Krishna consciousness for such reasons of name and gain. And, unfortunately, every issue of *BTP* provides ample evidence that this is the case. Not only on the matter of "*guru-tattva*", but on many matters, we document how there is no understanding of the philosophy by the "devotees" featured in *BTP*.

For example, we have presented the "ABCs" series showing how there is no understanding of even the basics of Krishna consciousness. We have also presented the articles "ISKCON's New Mission" in *BTP* 30 ([www.iskconirm.com/mission](http://www.iskconirm.com/mission)), and "ISKCON at 50: A Review" ([www.iskconirm.com/50](http://www.iskconirm.com/50)) in the last issue, which show that in virtually all areas, devotees are engaged in deviation—with the deviations of commercialisation, secularisation and Hinduisation predominating. Thus, such deviations, even if one has rejected the guru hoax, are also evidence of not understanding the philosophy of Krishna consciousness. And hence, those engaging in them may have taken to Krishna consciousness only for name and gain.

Thank you and Hare Krishna.

In Śrīla Prabhupāda's service,

**Krishnakant**

## IRM Mission Statement

Since the physical departure of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Śrīla Prabhupāda from our material vision on November 14, 1977, the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), the great movement that he single-handedly founded in 1966, and which is the only hope for humanity, has undergone a massive deterioration in its spiritual purity. This has been due to various deviations from the instructions and standards given by Śrīla Prabhupāda, the chief of which being his displacement as the sole *dikṣā* guru for ISKCON. The ISKCON Revival Movement (IRM) seeks to restore ISKCON to its former glory, purity and philosophical chastity through the re-institution of all the instructions and standards that Śrīla Prabhupāda gave, beginning with his role as the sole authority and *dikṣā* guru for ISKCON. The IRM's position is set out in *The Final Order*—see back page to order your free copy.



# The Unauthorised Cantos

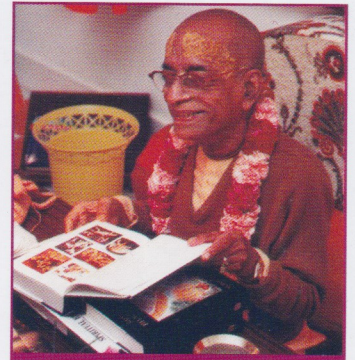
Śrīla Prabhubāda gave the world his translation of, and commentary on, the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. However, out of its 12 Cantos, the portion after Chapter 13 of Canto 10 was left uncompleted. Śrīla Prabhubāda had, however, earlier provided us with a full summary of the complete 10th Canto in his book *Kṛṣṇa, The Supreme Personality of Godhead*. After his physical departure in 1977, the GBC decided to

To Godhead, that HD and the other 10 "zonal ācāryas" were in *māyā*, or illusion, during this period:

**"But by the influence of *māyā*, illusion, a different idea soon evolved—that Śrīla Prabhubāda had appointed eleven "pure devotees" to serve as the only gurus after him. These eleven, the idea went, should each serve as the spiritual master for a specific geographical "zone" of the world.**

licit activity and were later convicted by the ISKCON Child Protection Office for child abuse. Acknowledging HD's illusion in writing such "purports", all such references, along with HD's honorific titles of "His Divine Grace" and "Ācāryadeva", were removed in later printings.

Such "purports" merely epitomise the *māyā* that HD's consciousness was in during the whole time he was completing



Śrīla Prabhubāda: Only his *Bhāgavatam* is authorised

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same exalted status of "His Divine Grace" as Śrīla Prabhubāda, but also the additional title of "Ācāryadeva". According to Śrīla Prabhubāda, this would place HD on a level equal to his own spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Saraswatī Ṭhākura, who is specifically referred to below:

**"The Ācāryadeva for whom we have assembled tonight to offer our humble homage is not the guru of a sectarian institution or one out of many differing exponents of the truth. On the contrary, he is the Jagad-guru, or the guru of all of us."**

(*The Science of Self-Realization*, Ch. 2)

However, it was later admitted in ISKCON's official magazine, *Back*

**Kirtanananda Swami Bhaktipada** [...] Outstanding examples of such endeavors can be presently seen in India at the Māyāpur Candrodaya Mandira gardens developed by **Śrīla Bhavānanda Goswami Viṣṇupāda**."

(HD, *SB.*, 11.7.6 and 11.11.41, purports, 1st printing, emphases added)

Claiming that Kirtanananda "founded" New Vṛndāvana is especially nonsensical, since all ISKCON projects established before 1978 were founded by ISKCON's founder, Śrīla Prabhubāda. Despite HD's promotion of their exalted status, both of these personalities had to leave ISKCON not long after such statements were made. Both were found to have engaged in il-

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(*Cc.*, *Ādi-līlā*, 8.39)

**"Unless one is empowered by the higher authorities, or advanced devotees, one cannot write transcendental literature, for all such literature must be above suspicion, or, in other words, it must have none of the defects of conditioned souls, namely mistakes, illusions, cheating and imperfect sense perceptions."**

(*Cc.*, *Ādi-līlā*, 8.72)

**"Unless one is tattva-darśi, in complete knowledge of the Absolute Truth, one cannot de-**

scribe the activities of the Personality of Godhead. [...] But we must select only those books written by *tattva-darśis* (*jñāninas tattva-darśinaḥ*), not the books of so-called scholars who claim knowledge only on the basis of a doctorate."

(*SB.*, 9.10.3)

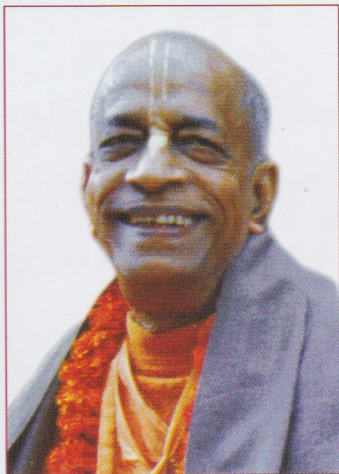
**"A realized soul, must be. [...] My purports are liked by people because it is presented as practical experience. [...] They are not ordinary... One cannot become unless one is very realized. It is not A-B-C-D translation."**

(Śrīla Prabhubāda, Meeting with the GBC, 28/5/77)

## Conclusion

This "completion" project was unauthorised as there is no record of Śrīla Prabhubāda authorising either the GBC or HD to undertake it. And this unauthorised activity resulted in output that—due to HD's illusion while translating and commenting on sacred scripture making him completely disqualified for the task—was a product of *māyā*. We may note a parallel with the "really large-scale revision" of Śrīla Prabhubāda's *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, running into thousands of changes. This was carried out by HH Jayādvaita Swami whilst also in the same illusion of supporting the same erroneous zonal ācārya system, as documented in our acclaimed book, *The Book Changer*.





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Thus, for example, one could take to Krishna consciousness to get some name or gain for oneself by desiring to become some type of leader or guru. Or desiring to become a famous *kirtana* singer or preacher. Or desiring to become a philanthropist who gains even greater name and fame, as then one is also recognised outside of ISKCON as well. And so on.

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## Bhāgavatam completed in illusion

During the period that HD completed the *Bhāgavatam*, he was also posing as one of the 11 "zonal ācāryas" who had declared themselves as successor *dikṣā* gurus appointed by Śrīla Prabhupāda, and as pure devotees on a similar level to Śrīla Prabhupāda. Indeed, in the pages of the *Bhāgavatam* that HD completed, HD was not only given the same exalted status of "His Divine Grace" as Śrīla Prabhupāda, but also the additional title of "Ācāryadeva". According to Śrīla Prabhupāda, this would place HD on a level equal to his own spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, who is specifically referred to below:

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However, it was later admitted in ISKCON's official magazine, *Back*

*To Godhead*, that HD and the other 10 "zonal ācāryas" were in *māyā*, or illusion, during this period:

**"But by the influence of māyā, illusion, a different idea soon evolved—that Śrīla Prabhupāda had appointed eleven 'pure devotees' to serve as the only gurus after him. These eleven, the idea went, should each serve as the spiritual master for a specific geographical 'zone' of the world. This zonal guru system, as it came to be called, prevailed in ISKCON for about ten years, until its falseness became clear [...] we express our heartfelt apologies for contributing to the hurts and wrongs devotees endured when ISKCON diverged from Śrīla Prabhupāda's instructions."**

(HH Jayādvaita Swami, Editor-in-Chief, *Back To Godhead*, #25-01, 1991)

## Evidence of HD's illusion

HD's illusion was so deep that he even went as far as to promote some of these other supposed "pure devotees" in his *Bhāgavatam* "purports". For example:

**"we are happily resting in the New Vrindaban community, founded by His Divine Grace Kirtanānanda Swami Bhaktipada [...] Outstanding examples of such endeavors can be presently seen in India at the Māyāpur Candrodaya Mandira gardens developed by Śrīla Bhavānanda Goswami Viṣṇupāda".**

(HD, *SB.*, 11.7.6 and 11.11.41, purports, 1st printing, emphases added)

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licit activity and were later convicted by the ISKCON Child Protection Office for child abuse. Acknowledging HD's illusion in writing such "purports", all such references, along with HD's honorific titles of "His Divine Grace" and "Ācāryadeva", were removed in later printings.

Such "purports" merely epitomise the *māyā* that HD's consciousness was in during the whole time he was completing the *Bhāgavatam*. Such illusioned consciousness can be contrasted with the liberated consciousness that gave rise to Śrīla Prabhupāda's error-free, spiritually pure *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*.

## The real qualification

The qualification of a person who translates and writes commentary on scriptures such as the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam* is not defined as being 'influenced by *māyā*, illusion', and having actively participated in the "falseness" of a guru system which "diverged from Śrīla Prabhupāda's instructions". Rather, the real qualification is stated by Śrīla Prabhupāda as follows (all emphases added):

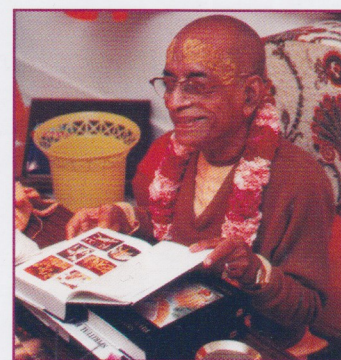
**"Transcendental literature that strictly follows the Vedic principles and the conclusion of the Purāṇas and pāñcarātrika-vidhi can be written only by a pure devotee."**

(Cc., Ādi-līlā, 8.39)

**"Unless one is empowered by the higher authorities, or advanced devotees, one cannot write transcendental literature, for all such literature must be above suspicion, or, in other words, it must have none of the defects of conditioned souls, namely mistakes, illusions, cheating and imperfect sense perceptions."**

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Śrīla Prabhupāda: Only his *Bhāgavatam* is authorised

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**"A realized soul, must be. [...] My purports are liked by people because it is presented as practical experience. [...] They are not ordinary... One cannot become unless one is very realized. It is not A-B-C-D translation."**

(Śrīla Prabhupāda, Meeting with the GBC, 28/5/77)

## Conclusion

This "completion" project was unauthorised as there is no record of Śrīla Prabhupāda authorising either the GBC or HD to undertake it. And this unauthorised activity resulted in output that—due to HD's illusion while translating and commentating on sacred scripture making him completely disqualified for the task—was a product of *māyā*. We may note a parallel with the "really large-scale revision" of Śrīla Prabhupāda's *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, running into thousands of changes. This was carried out by HH Jayādvaita Swami whilst also in the same illusion of supporting the same erroneous zonal ācārya system, as documented in our acclaimed book, *The Book Changer*.



# Reviving the Zonal Ācārya Hoax

In the previous article, we referred to the discredited “Zonal Ācārya” system (also known as the “Great Guru Hoax – Part 1”) that was foisted upon ISKCON straight after Śrīla Prabhupāda’s physical disappearance and later abandoned. However, it seems that one defiant GBC member and GBC-elected guru is determined to revive this discredited system by engaging in historical revisionism and re-writing Śrīla Prabhupāda’s statements. All emphases below are added.

## Śrīla Prabhupāda’s statements

In July 1977, Śrīla Prabhupāda established a system of initiation in ISKCON whereby he could continue to remain ISKCON’s *dikṣā* guru by selecting representatives (*rtviks*) to facilitate initiations on his behalf. This system works by a temple president writing to whichever of these representatives is nearest to accept a devotee as an initiated disciple of Śrīla Prabhupāda. The following statement makes this clear:

**“Temple Presidents may henceforward send recommendation for first and second initiation to whichever of these eleven representatives are nearest their temple. After considering the recommendation, these representatives may accept the devotee as an initiated disciple of Śrīla Prabhupāda.”**

(July 9th, 1977 directive, approved by Śrīla Prabhupāda)

Śrīla Prabhupāda reiterates the same points in the discussion about this system that took place two days earlier:

**Tamāla Kṛṣṇa:** “So supposing someone is in America, should they simply write directly to Kīrtānānanda or Satsvarūpa?”

**Śrīla Prabhupāda:** “Nearby. Jayatīrtha can give. [...] you divide who is nearest. [...]”

**Tamāla Kṛṣṇa:** “[...] They can

write to the man nearest them.

**But all these persons are still your disciples. Anybody who gives initiation is doing so on your behalf.**

**Śrīla Prabhupāda:** “Yes.”

(Room conversation, 7/7/77)

It cannot be disputed, therefore, that Śrīla Prabhupāda is selecting whoever “is nearest” to act only as representatives to facilitate initiations on behalf of himself as the *dikṣā* guru, rather than selecting successor *dikṣā* gurus.

## Śivarāma’s revisionism

Though what Śrīla Prabhupāda states by his mention of those “who is nearest” is very clear, GBC member and GBC-elected guru HH Śivarāma Swami (“SRS”) claims:

**“So very practical consideration, and we see that that was something that Śrīla Prabhupāda himself also employed when he also selected devotees to give *dikṣā*. And he also mentioned those who are nearest, that those devotees who are nearest geographic area they would naturally be the *dikṣā* gurus. That’s not something that necessarily happens now in ISKCON.”**

(SRS Podcast, 5/2/16)

He therefore falsely claims that Śrīla Prabhupāda selected those “who are nearest” to be *dikṣā* gurus for a particular “geographic area”, when we just saw that such persons were actually selected by Śrīla Prabhupāda to be representatives. And this claim that Śrīla Prabhupāda appointed those “who are nearest” to be *dikṣā* gurus for a particular geographical area was the basis for the discredited zonal *ācārya* system. But, Śrīla Prabhupāda never “mentioned” anywhere that “those who are nearest” would “naturally be the *dikṣā* gurus”. Rather, Śrīla Prabhupāda only mentions “those who are nearest” when he selects

representatives to facilitate initiations on behalf of himself as the *dikṣā* guru, as proven by Śrīla Prabhupāda’s statements.

## Rejects GBC

In the statement from SRS just presented, he also casually remarks that this geographical *dikṣā* guru system is “not something that necessarily happens now in ISKCON.” This is because the GBC has completely rejected such a geographical or ‘zonal’ *dikṣā* guru system for ISKCON. As noted:

**“These eleven, the idea went, should each serve as the spiritual master for a specific geographical “zone” of the world. This zonal guru system, as it came to be called, prevailed in ISKCON for about ten years, until its falseness became clear.”**

(Back To Godhead, #25-01, 1991)

Thus, the GBC has also accepted that Śrīla Prabhupāda never authorised a zonal *dikṣā* guru system. Therefore, in his determination to revive the discredited zonal *ācārya* system, SRS is not only rejecting Śrīla Prabhupāda’s authority, but also that of the GBC.

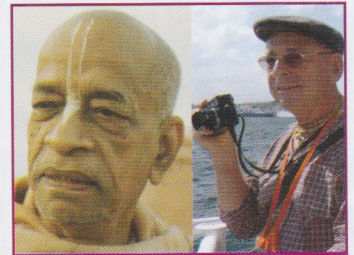
## “Lord Brahmā”-like TKG rejected

HH Tamāla Krishna Goswami (“TKG”) stated that Śrīla Prabhupāda:

**“appointed officiating priests to initiate on his behalf. He appointed eleven and he said very clearly, “Whoever is nearest, he can initiate.” This is a very important point, because when it comes to initiating it isn’t whoever is nearest, it’s wherever your heart goes. Who repose your faith on, you take initiation from him. But when it’s officiating, it’s whoever is nearest, and he was very clear.”**

(HH Tamāla Kṛṣṇa Goswami, 3/12/80, quoted in ISKCON Journal (1990), GBC Executive Committee)

Thus, TKG agreed that Śrīla



**Śivarāma Swami (right):**  
Rejects Śrīla Prabhupāda’s words

Prabhupāda had only selected “those who are nearest” to be officiating priests and not *dikṣā* gurus. SRS claims about TKG:

**“His Divine Grace Tamal Krishna Goswami Mahārāja [...] there are things in common between Tamal Krishna Mahārāja and Lord Brahmā”**

(SRS Lecture, 8/3/08)

However, in his determination to revive the discredited zonal *ācārya* system, SRS also rejects the authority of one whom he believes is like Lord Brahmā.

## Conclusion

Fabrication is a clear sign that we are dealing with a hoax. If one was presenting the truth, there would be no need to resort to such cheating tactics. Yet, SRS fabricates what he claims Śrīla Prabhupāda “mentioned” about “who is nearest”.

SRS is so determined to revive the discredited zonal *ācārya* system that he will reject not only Śrīla Prabhupāda, but also others, such as the GBC and TKG, whom he accepts as authoritative. Such determination is understandable for he has realised the significance of the zonal *ācārya* system being rejected. Once it is clear that Śrīla Prabhupāda only authorised representatives, and not *dikṣā* gurus, to conduct initiations in ISKCON, then the pathway to the Great Guru Hoax is blocked. Because, without these representatives turning into *dikṣā* gurus, they remain as representatives, and Śrīla Prabhupāda alone remains as ISKCON’s *dikṣā* guru.



# The Initiation Tree

Upon Śrīla Prabhubāda's physical departure, certain parameters for how ISKCON should operate were already in place. These parameters allow us to utilise a simple process of elimination in order to determine who would act as ISKCON's *dikṣā* guru on Śrīla Prabhubāda's physical departure.

## 'No *dikṣā* guru' ruled out

a) Śrīla Prabhubāda states:

**"By serving both the spiritual master and Kṛṣṇa he gets the seed of devotional service (*bhakti-latā-bija*) [...] The Krishna consciousness movement is started for this purpose, so that hundreds of ISKCON centers may give people a chance to hear and chant, to accept the spiritual master and to disassociate themselves from persons who are materially interested"**

(SB., 4.22.23, emphasis added)

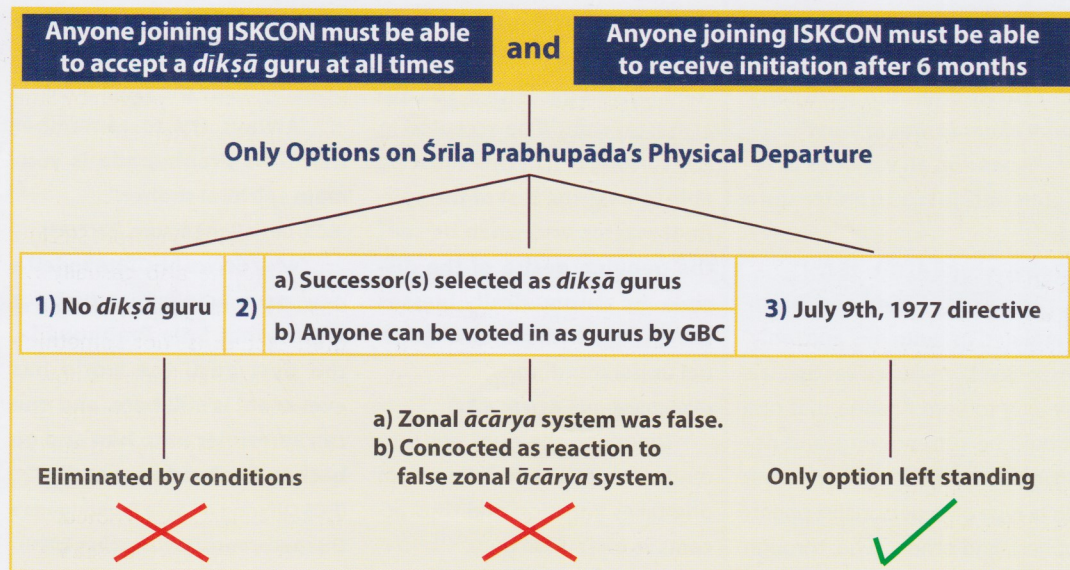
Thus, Śrīla Prabhubāda had established ISKCON so that there would always be an opportunity for a person to accept the *dikṣā* guru (the reference to the "*bhakti-latā-bija*" means that the "spiritual master" referred to here is the *dikṣā* guru).

b) The system in ISKCON was that anyone joining could get initiated after 6 months:

**"For six months, a candidate for initiation must first attend āratī and classes [...] When one is actually advanced in the *puraścaryā-vidhi*, he is recommended by the local temple president for initiation."**

(Cc., *Madhya-līlā*, 15.108)

a) and b) mean that at the time of Śrīla Prabhubāda's physical departure, Śrīla Prabhubāda had already left in place a system which allowed anyone joining ISKCON the opportunity to accept the *dikṣā* guru and get initiated by him after 6 months. Thus, the option of there being no *dikṣā* guru in place and initia-



tions "suspended" in ISKCON on Śrīla Prabhubāda's physical departure, whilst "waiting" for an indefinite time period for a guru to emerge via "self effulgence" or some other method, is ruled out.

## Successors ruled out

This, therefore, only leaves one of two options for ISKCON as soon as Śrīla Prabhubāda departed—either Śrīla Prabhubāda remains ISKCON's *dikṣā* guru, or he had authorised one or more of his disciples to take his place as ISKCON's *dikṣā* guru. If we consider the latter, it would mean that Śrīla Prabhubāda had already instructed ISKCON who these successors were and given a corresponding initiation system. However, Śrīla Prabhubāda did neither. Hence, the GBC was forced to concoct a system by taking the order Śrīla Prabhubāda did give and applying it to something else entirely. As the previous article showed, in the July 9th, 1977 directive:

a) Śrīla Prabhubāda had authorised 11 individuals to be representatives (*ṛtviks*) who would initiate persons to become Śrīla Prabhubāda's disciples.

b) Whichever representative was "nearest" to a particular temple would do this for an initiate.

Instead, the GBC did a 180 degree turn and claimed that the in-

dividuals appointed as representatives to initiate disciples for Śrīla Prabhubāda would do so for themselves. And the direction for the representative to be the "nearest" to a particular temple was turned into a "zonal *ācārya*" system where the 11 divided the world up into mutually exclusive fiefdoms. The whole system of 11 appointed zonal *ācāryas* was so clearly fabricated that even the GBC dismantled it around 10 years after it was introduced (see previous article). Thus, this "appointed successors" system has already been proven false.

## GBC voting ruled out

The GBC system that is being tried now in ISKCON is where anyone can become a "*dikṣā* guru" as long as the GBC approves of them via voting. Yet, there is no record of Śrīla Prabhubāda having instructed the GBC to "make" *dikṣā* gurus in this way, or given the system for how this should be done. Hence, the GBC never mentioned this 'GBC gurus by voting' system after Śrīla Prabhubāda physically departed. Rather, as history has shown, this system was invented a decade later purely as a mechanism to allow others to become *dikṣā* gurus, in reaction to the failed zonal-*ācārya* system. Consequently, the GBC then sim-

ply made up a whole set of procedures to construct this system:

- a) The exact voting procedure to approve gurus.
- b) The "qualifications" required for guru candidates.
- c) How guru candidates may be proposed.
- d) Who can become a candidate.
- e) How such "gurus" can be regulated, disciplined and removed.

And so on.

And these procedures are continually being revised as the GBC make them up as they go along, e.g. now "grand-disciples" are allowed to initiate, whereas previously it was strictly forbidden.

## Conclusion

By a process of elimination we are therefore left with only one option—an option which has to be in place, and which was the only option in place in ISKCON at the time of Śrīla Prabhubāda's physical departure: the July 9th 1977, directive. Śrīla Prabhubāda had already enforced this directive—which ensures that he remains ISKCON's *dikṣā* guru—throughout ISKCON shortly before his departure, and it fulfils the requirements that:

- a) ISKCON will always have "the spiritual master" one can accept;
- b) Anyone joining can become initiated after 6 months.

Please see diagram above.



# Surrendering to Śrīla Prabhupāda

At the end of the *Bhagavad-gītā*, Lord Krishna states its conclusion:

**“sarva-dharmān parityajya mām ekaṁ śaraṇaṁ vraja”**

**“Abandon all varieties of religion and just surrender unto Me.”**

(*Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, 18.66)

The words “mām” and “ekaṁ” translated as “unto me” and “only” respectively, make it clear that it is directly to Lord Krishna that one should be surrendering, and not anyone else. Yet there are *māyāvādīs* (a type of impersonalist philosopher), and others, who, through using word-jugglery, try to avoid this obvious conclusion. Śrīla Prabhupāda refers to such persons earlier in his *Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, when he states:

**“And yet foolish mundane scholars explain that one need not submit to Kṛṣṇa as a person, but to “the unborn within Kṛṣṇa”.”**

(*Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, 2.7)

Thus, such persons amazingly try to claim that to surrender unto Krishna does not actually mean one that has to surrender to Krishna directly, but rather it means that one has to surrender to something else. ISKCON leaders will rightly lambast such cheating word-jugglery. Yet, as we shall show, their guru system is based on the same *māyāvādi* word-jugglery! All emphases below added.

## Surrendering to a guru

Śrīla Prabhupāda explains:

**“Hari-bhakti-vilāsa (2.10) further quotes: [...] “It is the duty of every human being to surrender to a bona fide spiritual master. Giving him everything—body, mind and intelligence—one must take Vaiṣṇava initiation from him.””**

(Cc., *Madhya-līlā*, 15.108)

Similarly, in the verse from the *Bhagavad-gītā* dealing with accepting a spiritual master, Śrīla Prabhupāda also explains:

**“One has to approach a bona fide spiritual master to receive the knowledge. Such a spiritual master should be accepted in full surrender [...] One must be able to pass the test of the spiritual master, and when he sees the genuine desire of the disciple, he automatically blesses the disciple with genuine spiritual understanding.”**

(*Bhagavad-gītā As It Is*, 4.34)

Therefore, the guru one surrenders to is the one from whom one takes initiation and thus accepts as one’s *dikṣā* guru.

## Taking shelter

The first two key steps in discharging devotional service are given in the sixth chapter of *The Nectar of Devotion* as:

**“1) accepting the shelter of the lotus feet of a bona fide spiritual master, 2) becoming initiated by the spiritual master and learning how to discharge devotional service from him”.**

Thus, the one whose spiritual shelter a person takes is the one who should be accepted as the *dikṣā* guru.

## Surrendering to Śrīla Prabhupāda

It should be abundantly clear from the above that the guru unto whom one surrenders and takes shelter of is definitely the guru one takes initiation from and accepts as one’s *dikṣā* guru.

On the official website of HH Bhakti Charu Swami (“BCS”), his conducting an initiation ceremony is described as follows:

**“On the 10th January 2016, Mahārāja gave *Harināma Diksha* (first initiation) to twenty seven devotees, helping them surrender to the shelter of the lotus feet of Śrīla Prabhupāda.”** (‘Bhakti Charu Swami’s Visit To Singapore And Malaysia’)

The above account talks about the initiate’s “surrender” and

“shelter” at the lotus feet of Śrīla Prabhupāda. Indeed, BCS has repeatedly made the same point:

**“Always try to remember that Śrīla Prabhupāda is your main spiritual shelter.”**

(BCS, Initiation Lecture, 22/7/11)

**“why do we hesitate to tell a newcomer who is searching for a guru that Śrīla Prabhupāda, the best guru the world has ever seen, is still here, and one can surrender unto him and go back to Godhead very easily?”**

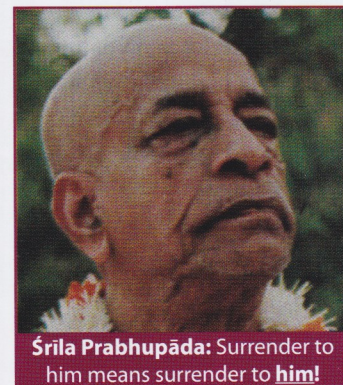
(BCS Offering on Śrīla Prabhupāda’s Disappearance Day, October 2000)

Hence, from the above account and the quotes we presented in the previous section, one would conclude that at these ceremonies BCS conducts, the initiate is accepting Śrīla Prabhupāda as his *dikṣā* guru. And that BCS is acting as a *ṛtvik*—an officiating priest who initiates disciples on behalf of Śrīla Prabhupāda—since the purpose of such a *ṛtvik* initiation ceremony is that one **“surrenders to the shelter of the lotus feet of Śrīla Prabhupāda”.**

## Māyāvādi shuffle

However, shockingly, we find that the result of such ceremonies, where one is supposedly surrendering to, and taking shelter of, Śrīla Prabhupāda, is that one does **not** accept Śrīla Prabhupāda as one’s *dikṣā* guru. Rather, the end result is that one accepts BCS as one’s *dikṣā* guru! And this is followed with the chanting of BCS’s *praṇām* mantra, offering food to BCS’s picture, and lavish worship and glorification of BCS as one’s *dikṣā* guru. For this is the GBC guru system in place in ISKCON. This system is therefore saying, as exemplified by BCS, that:

**1) To surrender to and take shelter of Śrīla Prabhupāda, i.e. accepting him as one’s *dikṣā* guru, means that actually one should **not** accept Śrīla Prabhupāda as one’s *dikṣā* guru.**



**Śrīla Prabhupāda: Surrender to him means surrender to him!**

**2) Instead the way to surrender to and take shelter of Śrīla Prabhupāda, i.e. accepting him as one’s *dikṣā* guru, is to accept BCS (or one of his GBC guru colleagues) as one’s *dikṣā* guru!**

BCS himself supposedly surrendered to and took shelter of Śrīla Prabhupāda, i.e. became his disciple and accepted him as his *dikṣā* guru. Thus, applying the logic of the philosophy above regarding how one surrenders to, and takes shelter of, Śrīla Prabhupāda, BCS should actually have accepted **himself** as his own *dikṣā* guru, i.e. initiated himself! For, according to him, that’s *how* one is supposed to surrender to and take shelter of Śrīla Prabhupāda.

ISKCON leaders like to use the term “offensive” when referring to the IRM stating that Śrīla Prabhupāda is ISKCON’s *dikṣā* guru. Yet, it is *this* unmitigated, ludicrous *māyāvādi* nonsense being peddled as “Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava philosophy” and “Śrīla Prabhupāda’s teachings” that is actually offensive to Śrīla Prabhupāda and the entire disciplic succession.

## Conclusion

When Krishna tells us to surrender to Him, it means to surrender to *Him*, not someone or something else, such as the ‘unborn within Him’, or the impersonal Brahman. Similarly, surrendering to Śrīla Prabhupāda means to surrender to and accept Śrīla Prabhupāda as our *dikṣā* guru, not someone else!



# Let's Stop Pretending

The GBC claims that we must accept their voted-in *dikṣā* gurus, and condemns the IRM's position of accepting Śrīla Prabhupāda as the *dikṣā* guru via the use of *rtviks*. Yet, the GBC continues to admit that their "*dikṣā* gurus" are really *rtviks*!

## ISKCON's "rtviks"

We have given a number of examples in the past—e.g. Umāpati, Prabhavishnu, etc.—demonstrating the GBC's approach when one of its 'good as God' "*dikṣā*" guru is forced to give up their position due to some illicit activity. This approach is two-fold:

a) Claim that the initiation received from such a person, even if they were deviating at the time, is valid, and that one is connected to Śrīla Prabhupāda and the *paramparā* (disciplic succession).

b) State that the disappearance of such a "*dikṣā* guru" from the devotees' lives does not matter, since Śrīla Prabhupāda will provide "shelter" to them, thus allowing them to make spiritual progress.

However, these are the characteristics of a "*rtvik*" initiation, where the "fallen" person has really acted as a representative of the real *dikṣā* guru, Śrīla Prabhupāda. And thus, the spiritual shelter and connection is provided by the *dikṣā* guru, Śrīla Prabhupāda, rather than his representative conducting the formalities of the initiation.

## More evidence

The GBC has now explained again how their "*dikṣā*" gurus are really *rtviks*, when announcing that yet another GBC "*dikṣā*" guru resigned due to some past illicit discretions. The extracts in the shaded boxes are from a message sent out on 24/3/16 by the GBC Executive Committee, about **Gunaḡrahi Dāsa Goswami** (now *Prabhu*), with emphasis added.

**Step 1** - The "guru" may have been deviating for a long time:

"he experienced severe anxiety out of guilt for spiritual difficulties that have lasted several decades [...] has stepped down from the *sannyāsa ashrama*, as an initiating guru, and as co-zonal secretary"

**Step 2** - But it does not matter as your initiation is still bona fide:

"since you were duly initiated in accordance with ISKCON law, you are in good spiritual standing."

**Step 3** - It does not matter, because as long as you take shelter of and follow Śrīla Prabhupāda's instructions, you will make spiritual progress:

"We encourage you, especially at this time, to take shelter of Śrīla Prabhupāda and his instructions, [...] as long as you continue to take guidance from Śrīla Prabhupāda and his sincere followers and remain strict in your spiritual practices, you will be safe and secure under Lord Krishna's protection."

Many of Śrīla Prabhupāda's disciples never met him, and thus would have had their initiation conducted by someone else. And all of them have not had any contact with Śrīla Prabhupāda for almost 40 years. Yet, the validity of their initiation is not considered negated if the person who was responsible for conducting their initiation is found to be a deviant. And all the while they would have been spiritually protected since they took shelter of, and followed, Śrīla Prabhupāda's instructions. Therefore, the statements made in Steps 1, 2 and 3 outlined above, could just as equally have been made for a "deviant" representative who had conducted initiations for Śrīla Prabhupāda's disciples. We therefore need to stop pretending that the current GBC "*dikṣā* gurus" are any more than glorified *rtviks*.

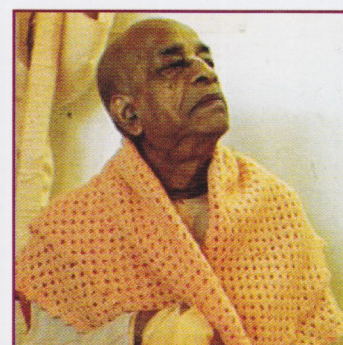
## Bogus "foster guru"

We already saw in the previous article the quote from *The Nectar of Devotion* stating that the one whose spiritual shelter a person takes is the one who should be accepted as the *dikṣā* guru. Since Śrīla Prabhupāda provides this *guaranteed* spiritual shelter in ISKCON, then he is the person from whom we must take initiation and accept as the *dikṣā* guru. But instead, one is expected to undergo the following charade:

- 1) First pick a GBC guru.
- 2) However, beware, as this person may also be a deviant, now or in the future.
- 3) But, if anything does go wrong, do not worry. Śrīla Prabhupāda is there to step in and take care of you!

Hence, the GBC guru is like an unnecessary, concocted "foster guru", whom you must take, but if you are lucky and this "foster guru" ends up being exposed, then and only then, can you have the "real" guru Śrīla Prabhupāda, who will never let you down. At this point, even a child will be asking: "*but why can't we just have our real guru to begin with?!*"

**Thus, if we can take shelter of Śrīla Prabhupāda later and make spiritual progress, then we can have him to begin with and always make spiritual progress.** Especially when it is claimed that if the "foster guru" were to disappear from your life, it will not affect you spiritually. Hence, there is no need to have such a "foster" guru foisted on us, when we can just accept the real *dikṣā* guru Śrīla Prabhupāda from the outset. This will also save the devastation that occurs when so many devotees discover that their GBC guru was not 'as good as God' after all. But, unfortunately this foisting is done, just so ISKCON's leaders can satisfy their desire for PAD (Profit, Adoration and Distinction).



Śrīla Prabhupāda:  
The risk-free guru

## Conclusion

We have already established in previous publications that the GBC has no authority for their concocted guru system, since Śrīla Prabhupāda remains as ISKCON's *dikṣā* guru. The GBC's contradictory rationalisation when one of their gurus "falls" highlights their guru system's concocted nature:

a) Śrīla Prabhupāda is not enough to make spiritual progress, and so we must take one of their 70+ gurus.

b) When the GBC guru "falls", it does not matter, because Śrīla Prabhupāda is enough to make spiritual progress!

Thus, the GBC rejects Śrīla Prabhupāda and his *rtvik* system so that these leaders can have their unauthorised guru system, and so fulfil their PAD program. But then, the GBC is also more than happy to "borrow" Śrīla Prabhupāda and elements of the *rtvik* system to prop up and justify its unauthorised guru system when it goes wrong, just so as to keep its PAD program alive. Basically, it's simply all about PAD!

Spiritual life should lead us to move from pretending and cheating to truthfulness and reality. Yet, the key vehicle for going back to Godhead and making spiritual advancement—accepting a bona fide spiritual master—continues in ISKCON to be based on pretending that a person *functioning* practically as a *rtvik* is actually a real *dikṣā* guru.



# BTP Interactive

## The Book Changer reaction continues

"I just came across a book *The Book Changer*. It really is something. And now I would like to read *The Final Order*. Thank you."

- **Brajesh Sharma, Bangalore, India**

"Thanks for helping us in advancing in Prabhupāda consciousness by meticulously and unfailingly publishing the *BTP*, which helps us to remain steadfast at the lotus feet of Śrīla Prabhupāda. I recently received *The Book Changer*, which is again a very enlightening piece of work. Thanks for publishing and sending the same."

- **Niraj Bidawatka, Mumbai, India**

"I have received a book (*The Book Changer*) about Jayādvaita Swami's demoniac philosophy and activities. Thank you very much! You saved my spiritual life years ago and I stay eternally thankful to you!"

- **Daivi Sakti Dāsī, Zagreb, Croatia**

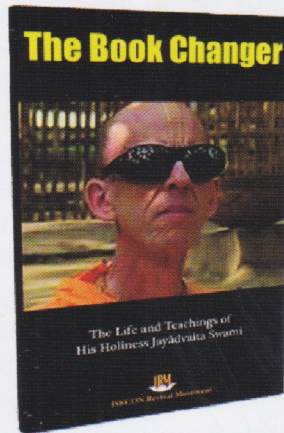
"Re: *The Book Changer*—Please send me the evidence on that rascal Jayādvaita Swami. It's outrageous the way he has sabotaged Prabhupāda's books. Is he insane or just evil? Thank you very much.

I really appreciate the IRM website. IRM is doing very important work exposing the bogus gurus. There are many devotees of Lord Kṛṣṇa in Australia who feel cheated by ISKCON's gurus. It's outrageous that the GBC pleads guilty to child abuse but refuses to put in their resignations.

Please also send me a copy of *100 Contradictions*—the Bhakti Charu Swami exposé. I don't believe he is a pure devotee and I would never call him guru. Bogus gurus should be exposed as frauds, they are destroying ISKCON. If there is anything I can do to stop the gurus, please contact me. Thank you very much.

Hare Krishna,  
Jaya IRM."

- **Pralambāri Dāsa, Sydney, Australia**



*The Book Changer*

### Editor replies:

The best way to help stop the false gurus is to spread the word to others to also subscribe to receive our free literatures, which are successfully spreading all over the world and helping devotees to reject these false gurus.

"Your *The Book Changer* is a "bestseller" here. Everybody loves it as well as your fine service. You don't criticize, you just repeat his words to hang him. Śrīla Prabhupāda likes very much.

Thank you so very much."

- **Ramai Devī Dāsī, West Virginia, USA**

### ISKCON's class of followers

"In India we have two classes of ISKCON devotees. Insiders who depend on the Institute for food, clothing and shelter, and accept guru and *dikṣā* for survival. Secondly, the outsiders (congregation devotees) who are independent, accept guru and *dikṣā* for prestige. In India people join temples/*ashrams* due to poverty, unemployment, and lack of education, and take on different garb to fill the stomach and receive honor. Vrindavan and Navadvīp head the list of the *Tirthas* for their notoriety as resorts of all the immoral persons of the country. True seekers and true gurus are very rare. The world is changing."

- **Sunandadas, Navadvīpa, India**

### Editor replies:

The article on page 13 shows how ISKCON today is going on with cheap followers who are more interested in belonging to some "guru" rather than reading and following what Śrīla Prabhupāda actually ordered.

### "100" books

"I accept definitely the truth and logic of IRM. I share your extremely coherent and logical understanding. For me this is obvious:

1) Prabhupāda is a pure devotee of the Lord.

2) Prabhupāda had a ministry of extreme importance and was a very special genuine link in the *paramparā*.

3) The movement he founded was originally a totally authentic movement.

4) Unlike the ISKCON pseudo gurus, he is our only shelter.

I do not know if one day, at least in our lifetime, IRM will finally succeed, but it is fighting for a noble and just cause.

I want to be, with a more correct and mature understanding by the IRM's grace, on the boat which presents the original ISKCON where Śrīla Prabhupāda and only Śrīla Prabhupāda is at the tiller of this boat. In taking refuge in him we will come back, all the souls who do the same, to our original home. I want to give all appreciation to Krishnakant Prabhu for his extremely important work. IRM is a rampart inspired by Kṛṣṇa to preserve and restore what He set up through His pure devotee Śrīla Prabhupāda. I want to purify myself from all my misunderstandings and join your movement to finally live in the original ISKCON as founded by Śrīla Prabhupāda. If I can help in any way where I am, let me know. With a picturesque style I would like to take a spiritual shower to purify myself from all my misunderstandings, to come

back to the starting point and finally to come back to the original ISKCON. I have seen two books on the IRM website, one about BCS's *100 Contradictions* and the other about a pseudo guru, *100 Deviations*. Can you explain to me in a few words these two books?"

- **Govinda Dāsa, Brussels, Belgium**  
(translated from French)

### Editor replies:

I am very happy to hear that you have full faith in Śrīla Prabhupāda and are only taking shelter in him. In regards to the two books you have asked about, these books basically prove two conclusions:

a) That the gurus in question contradict Śrīla Prabhupāda's teachings;

b) That they also, unwittingly, end up establishing that Śrīla Prabhupāda, and not they, should be ISKCON's *dikṣā* guru.

These conclusions are established **solely** through using their **own** words.

We would be very happy to send you these two books to read, if you wish.

### The real spiritual master

"Śrīla Prabhupāda is undoubtedly the *Diksha* Guru. Everyone in ISKCON should continue to associate with Śrīla Prabhupāda. Pleasing the *ācārya* means pleasing Krishna (beyond any doubt)."

- **Sunita Arora, Mumbai, India**

"It's impossible that Śrīla Prabhupāda left behind as-good-as-God gurus liable to fall down. To suggest otherwise is to cast a shadow of doubt over His Divine Grace. The job has been done, he has saved not only this planet but the entire universe."

- **Robert Lury, London, UK**

### Why the IRM must continue

The following letter was sent to us by Ishan Dāsa of New Mexico, USA, and our response in coloured text is interspersed be-



## BTP Interactive (continued)

tween his statements below:

"I do not feel that the people who are representing Śrīla Prabhupāda's movement are qualified to do so. And the fact that anyone can go along with this hoax is inconceivable to me. But I don't see how any good can come out of this debate, because ISKCON has dug such a deep hole for themselves that they will never be able to admit to themselves and to others that they are off track. I feel in my heart that you are most sincere in devoting your life to glorifying Śrīla Prabhupāda and trying to put his movement back on track, but that this will not come to pass."

This may or may not be true in regards to the leaders, but there are many rank-and-file devotees who are being, and can be, helped to see that they are off-track. So this method is working, and it will continue to work, and hence we must continue doing it.

"I can understand that these men are trying to assume Śrīla Prabhupāda's position for themselves. But this does not stop anyone from reading Śrīla Prabhupāda's books and watching his DVDs, listening to his lectures. "He lives forever by his divine instructions and the follower lives with him."

And, as the article on page 13 shows, it is important devotees do this rather than listen to the misrepresented version of Śrīla Prabhupāda's teachings from the guru hoaxers. Thus, by exposing these misrepresentations, BTP helps to achieve the goal of encouraging devotees to go 'back to Prabhupāda' and reading his books directly.

"I really think that these arguments will not change anything. It will simply continue to fester."

As mentioned above, presenting the facts regarding the guru hoax is changing devotees: from following a false path to follow-

ing the correct one—as the many testimonies printed on these pages show.

### How could the guru hoax happen?

"Much love and esteem for Śrī Swami Prabhupāda. Did not know about the Guru Hoax. Shocked. How could they?"

- Luigi Forzin, London, UK

#### Editor replies:

In response to the question of how such a guru hoax could happen, it is interesting to note that a very similar hoax already happened in the Gauḍīya Maṭha (ISKCON's predecessor institution belonging to Śrīla Prabhupāda's spiritual master, Śrīla Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura). Śrīla Prabhupāda gave the following warning whilst mentioning the guru hoax of the Gauḍīya Maṭha:

**"Therefore we may not commit the same mistake in our ISKCON camp."**

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Letter, 28/4/74)

Unfortunately, this warning was not heeded and, as we have seen, the same mistake **was** committed in ISKCON, since ISKCON also engaged in a similar guru hoax as soon as Śrīla Prabhupāda physically departed.

Śrīla Prabhupāda states that history repeats itself:

**"You can simply refer the history that the same thing is... "History repeats itself." When there was Roman Empire, Mogul Empire, the same strife, the same political dissension, the same fight."**

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Lecture, 16/6/68)

Therefore, as long as that nature of desiring followers and desiring to sit in the seat of one's guru remains, then history will indeed keep repeating itself.

However, Śrīla Prabhupāda also said in regards to the guru hoax of the Gauḍīya Maṭha:

**"One party strictly followed the instructions of Bhaktisid-**

**dhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura, but another group created their own concoction about executing his desires. [...] But just after his passing away, his leading secretaries made plans, without authority, to occupy the post of ācārya, and they split into two factions over who the next ācārya would be. [...] Therefore, we do not belong to any faction. But because the two parties, busy dividing the material assets of the Gauḍīya Maṭha institution, stopped the preaching work, we took up the mission of Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Ṭhākura and Bhaktivinoda Ṭhākura to preach the cult of Caitanya Mahāprabhu all over the world, under the protection of all the predecessor ācāryas, and we find that our humble attempt has been successful."**

(Cc., Ādi-līlā, 12.8)

Thus, both deviation and strict following (due to Śrīla Prabhupāda) occurred. Similarly, we can strictly follow Śrīla Prabhupāda's orders, or we can be like those who deviated in the Gauḍīya Maṭha, and also deviate. The choice is ours.

"I am already getting *The Final Order* and BTP. Dear Prabhuji, if everything is running according to the instruction of the Lord, how someone is doing wrong? It is my thought. Please give me a simple instruction for the benefit of the general public and to me, then our lives will become successful and blissful. Hare Krishna. Yours,"

- Jagannath Dāsa, Orissa, India

#### Editor replies:

Unfortunately, everything is not running according to the instruction of the Lord. The living entity has free will, and most of the living entities in the material world have chosen not to follow the instructions of the Lord and His representative, Śrīla Prabhupāda. In the previous reply, we



Śrīla Prabhupāda: Warned against ISKCON's guru hoax

saw that such disobedience is nothing new, and it afflicted the Gauḍīya Maṭha as well. To become successful and blissful, we must accept Śrīla Prabhupāda as our guru and follow his orders without deviation. In every issue of BTP we present these orders so that devotees do not get misled by those who are claiming to be presenting Śrīla Prabhupāda's orders, but are actually just presenting their own concocted ideas.

### BTP Exchange

The following exchange took place with Valerio Virgini from Osimo, Italy:

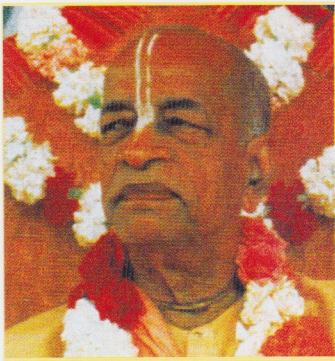
"Dear Prabhuji, I am very attached to Prabhupāda by a feeling of great gratitude. I know that I can never repay him.

However, I do not feel the same feeling toward his disciples. I have pleasure in their company, I am interested in their classes, but I do not think I have towards them the feeling that you have to have for a guru.

I believe that without that feeling we should not accept *diksha*. Only Prabhupāda instilled in me that feeling. I feel that I am a disciple of Prabhupāda, but I cannot get *diksha* from him. The *ritvik* system would solve the problem, but there is no tradition where such a system is used after the guru has left the body. This fact makes me think of being out of the Vaishnava tradition. In the *Bhagavad-gītā*, Arjuna became a disciple of Krishna accepting His



## BTP Interactive (continued)



Śrīla Prabhupāda: Following him seriously is real initiation

teachings. Not that there was an initiation rite. If I follow his teachings without *diksha*, what's the difference?

Thank you. Hare Kṛṣṇa."

- Valerio Virgini, Osimo, Italy

Śrīla Prabhupāda has taught that the only tradition that matters is pleasing Krishna:

"If you want to make your life successful, then you must keep the tradition of *brāhmaṇa-vaiṣṇava*. [...] Our only tradition is how to satisfy Viṣṇu. [...] They must be very alert, very careful, how to keep Lord Viṣṇu or Kṛṣṇa satisfied. That is our only business."

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Lecture, 30/7/73)

And the way to please Krishna is to please the spiritual master:

"If the spiritual master is pleased, then Krishna is pleased."

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Lecture, 3/11/73)

Śrīla Prabhupāda established that he alone remains the *dikṣā* guru of ISKCON. And he never authorised anyone to act as his successor *dikṣā* guru in ISKCON.

Therefore, by obeying Śrīla Prabhupāda and accepting him as your *dikṣā* guru, you are pleasing him and are in the Vaiṣṇava tradition. But if you disobey him, then you are out of the Vaiṣṇava tradition.

1) *Dikṣā* is not the initiation rite. *Dikṣā* is the process by which transcendental knowledge is awakened and all reactions caused by sinful activity are vanquished:

"*Dikṣā* is the process by which one can awaken his transcendental knowledge and vanquish all reactions caused by sinful activity. A person expert in the study of the revealed scriptures knows this process as *dikṣā*."

(Cc., *Madhya-līlā*, 15.108)

2) The initiation rite or ceremony formalises initiation, but the ceremony is not in itself the initiation (all emphases below added):

"Initiation is a formality. If you are serious, that is real initiation. If you have understood this Kṛṣṇa philosophy and if you have decided that you will take Kṛṣṇa consciousness seriously and preach the philosophy to others, that is your initiation. My touch is simply a formality. It is your determination. That is initiation."

(BTG, "The Search for the Divine")

"So anyway, from 1922 to 1933 practically I was not initiated, but I got the impression of preaching Caitanya Mahāprabhu's cult. That I was thinking. And that was the initiation by my Guru Mahārāja."

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Lecture, 10/12/76)

"So when this faith is created, then actually the initiation begins. [...] So this firm conviction is the beginning of initiation. [...] So initiation means to be engaged in that Brahman activities. [...] So *ādau śraddhā*, when one becomes firmly convinced that "By becoming Kṛṣṇa conscious or being engaged in the transcendental loving service of Kṛṣṇa, my life is successful, life will be successful," that is the beginning of Kṛṣṇa consciousness, or initiation."

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Lecture, 29/7/68)

Thus, there are three distinct items:

1) *Dikṣā* - the process of spiritual progress via the awakening of transcendental knowledge.

2) Initiation - beginning the

process of *dikṣā* through faith, surrender and determination.

3) Initiation rite - formalising initiation through a ceremony.

3) is a formality and, therefore, not essential to 1) and 2).

- Editor

"Thanks, *Prabhuji*.

What you say is really comforting. I always thought the spiritual path is to be joyful, and these formal issues seem put there by *māyā*, to ruin everything. I can understand the instructions of Śrīla Prabhupāda through his books.

If I completely agree on everything and I try to practise that, I am sure I do not need anything else.

Thanks so much for your precious time you are dedicating to me."

- Valerio

"I was a *brahmacārī* at New Vrindaban in the early 90s. Sometimes I think to go back... but with all the corruption, what options do I have? I highly doubt I will, but I do think about it."

- Tim Croft, Kentucky, USA

Editor replies:

Śrīla Prabhupāda has not asked us to associate with, and take part in, what you admit yourself is corruption. The only option is to not do this, and just practise Krishna consciousness the best you can. Sticking only with the association of Śrīla Prabhupāda is infinitely better than bad association.

The following letter was sent to us by Hari Jagernauth from Florida, USA, and our response in coloured text is interspersed between his statements below:

"Dear *Prabhuji*,

All Glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda. All Glories to Gaura Hari.

I have been associated with this ISKCON movement since 1971 in New York City. Having been fortunate to take birth in an Indian

family, I was so happy when I saw the miracle Śrīla Prabhupāda had performed. By the grace of *parāmparā* and Krishna, he was able to rescue people steeped in ignorance, who were without basic hygiene and human intelligence. In Prabhupāda's own words, "minus zero" civilization. I was witness to some of those men who, after having been molded by Śrīla Prabhupāda to become normal human beings, decided later to hijack the movement. The result of all this is what we have seen for the past four decades. Krishnakant *prabhu*, no matter what you try to do, it is all for naught. The people who control the ISKCON society would never budge."

But the devotees who have been misled by those who control the Society, have budged, are budging, and will continue to budge. Thus, it has not been "all for naught". We are happy to help those who want to be helped—and there are many of them, as the positive responses to BTP over the years demonstrate.

"It is so evident that they do not make new disciples. They chased away many good people. They have watered down as much as they can. There has been, and will continue to be, that "holier than thou" attitude among their followers. The potency has been lost because they were riding on Prabhupāda's potency.

They would stop at nothing. When Nārāyaṇa Maharaj came on the scene, those bogus *sannyāsīs* sought his counsel but then they decided to do the divide and conquer thing.

You folks can continue to expose as much as you can, but for many years now I, like many sincere people, have decided to serve Śrīla Prabhupāda and thank him for helping us to understand that Krishna is the cause of all causes. The only way to be happy is by devotion and chanting of the





## BTP Interactive (continued)

holy names of Hari.”

It is wonderful that you have decided to serve Śrīla Prabhupāda. Śrīla Prabhupāda wanted us to challenge and expose the bogus gurus:

**“I am very glad that you are challenging all of these so called swamis and gurus. My Guru Maharaja appreciated devotees who boldly present our Vaisnava philosophy. We must take advantage of every opportunity to defeat these rascals and drive them away, so please continue this strong attitude.”**

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Letter, 30/11/71)

**“Write vigorous articles to kick on the face of these rascals. [...] Do you think it is nice? You are talking all nonsense, and I have to believe you?”**

(Śrīla Prabhupāda, Morning Walk, 19/4/73)

**“Our business is to point out who is not a saint.”**

(Śrīla Prabhupāda, Morning Walk, 10/4/74)

Unfortunately, the bogus gurus are also within ISKCON today. So we are challenging and exposing them.

And we are spreading the truth about Śrīla Prabhupāda to those who need it the most—the devotees associated with ISKCON, who have already decided that they want to follow and accept Śrīla Prabhupāda. But they have been misled to think that they cannot do this in the way Śrīla Prabhupāda wanted, and instead must accept and follow substitute “gurus” instead of Śrīla Prabhupāda. So, we have also decided to serve Śrīla Prabhupāda in this way.

Of course, chanting the holy names has to go on as well, because Śrīla Prabhupāda ordered that we do this too.

### Criticism and bhakti

“Please don’t waste your time criticising devotees... life is too short! Better concentrate on chant-

ing the Holy Name; maintaining a good *Sādhana Bhakti* as recommended by Śrīla Prabhupāda!!”

- Bisto Bedwantee, Vacoas, Mauritius

#### Editor replies:

**1)** You have written to us telling us what we should be doing, and what we should not be doing. So, within the pages of *BTP* we are doing exactly what you are doing—stating what should be done (following Śrīla Prabhupāda’s orders), and what should not be done (disobeying Śrīla Prabhupāda’s orders). And, as you have written to us, doing exactly the same, you already accept that such an activity should be done.

**2)** We are concentrating on chanting the Holy Name, a minimum of 16 rounds a day, as ordered by Śrīla Prabhupāda. However, he also asked us to render practical service. In the previous reply, we provided quotes from Śrīla Prabhupāda which show that we are serving him.

**3)** Śrīla Prabhupāda states:

**“The regulative principles means that you don’t manufacture anything. Regulative principle means authorized—as they are mentioned in the authorized scriptures and as it is confirmed by the spiritual master. Because we do not know. When it is confirmed by the spiritual master, yes, it is right. [...] We cannot follow an upstart, manufacturing some song, manufacturing some ideas. We cannot follow that. What is authorized song, we shall sing. What is authorized method, we shall follow. [...] So *sādhya* *śāstra guru vākya tinete kariyā aikya*. So this is *sādhana-bhakti*. We must take instruction from the spiritual master.”**

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Lecture, 13/11/72)

Therefore, in order to be correctly engaged in *sādhana-bhakti*, we must be fully knowledgeable of Śrīla Prabhupāda’s true teachings so we do not get misled by

deviant gurus and deviant practices. *BTP* actually leads the way in this regard, continually exposing unauthorised, manufactured practices propagated by false gurus, which are not in line with Śrīla Prabhupāda’s instructions. Consequently, *BTP* is actually evidence of good *sādhana-bhakti* practice, since it is a manifestation of being knowledgeable about Śrīla Prabhupāda’s correct teachings, which are essential in order to practise *sādhana-bhakti* correctly.

“Whoever you people are please stop wasting your time slandering for no one really believes you. Why don’t you concentrate on the path of *bhakti* instead. PEOPLE ARE LAUGHING AT YOU.”

- Manjusha De, New South Wales, Australia

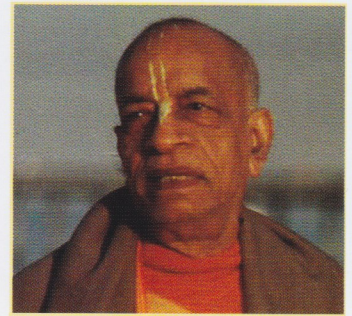
#### Editor replies:

**1)** Slander refers to making false statements orally. However, we have not made any false statements, either orally or otherwise. Indeed, to date, no one has yet pointed out a statement we have made which is not truthful.

**2)** If, as you claim, “no one really believes” us, then why are you so bothered by our statements? Rather, it makes more sense that you have been bothered enough to write to us telling us to stop making our statements, because they are being believed, rather than ignored!

**3)** We are concentrating on the path of *bhakti*. Please see the explanation given in the previous reply.

**4)** When devotees went out on the streets dressed in devotional clothing, and performed *harināma*, sometimes they were laughed at. Therefore, being laughed at due to ignorance does not matter. We are serving Śrīla Prabhupāda by presenting the truth about him, and we will continue to do so, regardless of whether or not we are “believed”, or



Śrīla Prabhupāda: Ordered us to defeat bogus gurus

laughed at. It is our duty to Śrīla Prabhupāda.

### BTP/IRM Appreciation

“Blessings to you in your service to Śrīla Prabhupāda. Keep up the good work.”

- Brahmānanda Purī Dāsa, Texas, USA

“All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda, the *acharya dikṣā* guru from ISKCON. *Om namo bhagavate vāsudevāya!*

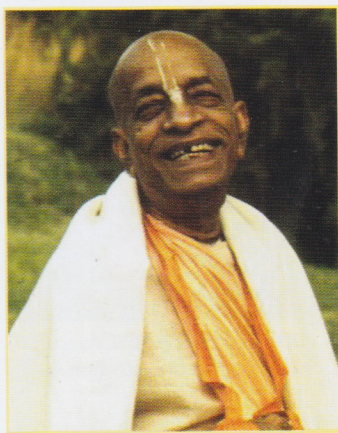
Due to the efforts of Krishnakant Prabhu, the arguments of the IRM prove in writing what Śrīla Prabhupāda, the guru and founder of ISKCON, really taught. However, due to being addicted to fame, prestige and power, others cannot see this truth. They are too attached to themselves. In fact, those who pursue false power become fanatics and slaves of their own selfishness. If you want to follow Śrīla Prabhupāda, then follow his teachings. Otherwise, one will be led to the abyss of the ignorance of birth and death. *Om tat sat*. Your well-wisher and servant,”

- Kṛṣṇapriyananda Swami, Porto Alegre, Brazil

“I also wanted to thank you for this issue. As always, you point out the truth. I went to Bhaktivedanta Manor temple (near London, UK) this morning, and the subject of the lecture was about being a good servant. I was thinking that all the examples they presented, while they showed Śrīla Prabhupāda in the correct light, it flagged up that they were asking devotees to treat the fake gurus with the



## BTP Interactive (continued)



Śrīla Prabhupāda: Available as everyone's *dikṣā* guru

same level of respect as him."

- **Tanya Galliara, Reading, UK**

"Thanks for the service."

- **Patrick Bernard, Quebec, Canada**

"Excellent magazine. Well done. Keep it up."

- **Indira Lalmun, Phoenix, South Africa**

"Again and again I thank you, and Lord Krishna for helping and protecting you in battling the insane anti-Prabhupāda demons. All glories, all glories, ALL GLORIES to Śrīla Prabhupāda—who has never died, and continues to give genuine *dikṣā*, and to encourage and inspire his authentic devotees! (Alas! I am so fallen, I cannot be counted with you.)

It was so comforting and encouraging to read the scriptural evidence treatise on your website."

- **Wade Ryan, Nebraska, USA**

"Always good reading."

- **Ananta-śeṣa Dāsa, New South Wales, Australia**

"Krishnakant Prabhu!

PAMHO and AGTSP. I had no idea about ISKCON. I am inspired by Śrīla Prabhupāda's teachings. My English is very poor. So as I knew from *BTP* that there are other editions as well. So please send me the Hindi one. I can understand Hindi better than English. After I started reading *BTP*, since then my confusion slowly, slowly going away. Thank you. *Haribol!*"

- **Damodar Dāsa, Hampshire, UK**

"I find the *BTP* magazine very impressive, the contents of the ar-

ticle and the commentary are super excellent, outstanding and remarkable. I would be very grateful if you could please send me another copy of *BTP* issue. I would very much like to introduce it to some of my friends. Hare Krishna.

Yours in Krishna's service,  
Most humble servant,"

- **Kishen Kumar, Singapore**

"All glories to your service to Śrīla Prabhupāda."

- **Thakor C. Topiwala, North Carolina, USA**

"Hare Krishna,

Thank you for answering my questions with quotations from Prabhupāda. I really appreciate it. You are the first devotees who reasonably answer these questions of mine and got rid of my doubts.

Thanks for the answer,"

- **Jacob Pokluda, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (translated from Czech)**

"It's very good to bring Śrīla Prabhupāda back in ISKCON."

- **Prince Kumar, Jaipur, India**

"I love the magazine and agree wholeheartedly with IRM's position. Wishing everyone at IRM the best. *Hari Bol.*"

- **Robert Gilpin, New York, USA**

"Thanks for revealing the truth. Please forward earlier editions as well."

- **Rajan Bugwande, Durban, South Africa**

"I appreciate your efforts in spreading Śrīla Prabhupāda's original teachings.

All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda.  
Hare Krishna."

- **Suren S. Khatana, Helsinki, Finland**

"I am *Bhakta* Mehul from India and I was serving Śrī Śrī Rādhā Rasabihari Temple, Juhu, India since 2001. I was victimized by the temple politics and the hoax. I parted from service to Krishna and Prabhupāda. I have been following IRM for a long time and I am convinced about IRM and now I want to be part of IRM and also render service to Śrīla Prabhupāda, by exposing these so-called

gurus. I really need guidance as to how I can be back in service of Prabhupāda. I really regret that I have no service and I don't want to serve the fake gurus and devotees. Please help me."

- **Mehul Vora, Mumbai, India**

"Hare Krishna, Prabhu,  
Thanks for answering my questions so nicely."

- **Biren Chauhan, Gujarat, India**

"Keep preaching the truth, it is working!!"

- **Jamadagni Dāsa, Houston, USA**

"I have myself seen the ineptness in ISKCON. After Śrīla Prabhupāda physically departed, ISKCON is not the same. You have an uphill fight to achieve your goals. Create good devotees, demonstrate how it can be done! Good Luck!"

- **J.P. Bansal, Louisiana, USA**

"Thank you for keeping me posted with the deviations of bogus gurus."

- **K. Guruprasad, Tamil Nadu, India**

"I used to be a devotee in the 1980s and it's time I returned to Śrīla Prabhupāda's movement."

- **Andy Naya, Queensland, Australia**

"Keep up the amazing work!! Truth is what we need!"

- **Jamuna Baarda, Alkmaar, The Netherlands**

"I would love to learn more and become a true devotee of Lord Krishna. Please continue your good works to restore ISKCON to its original glory. May Śrīla Prabhupāda bless us all! Hare Krishna!"

- **Senanu Kofi, London, UK**

"Your effort is much appreciated."

- **Mahesh J. C., Mumbai, India**

"Great messages and ethics through the magazine. Please keep going. Thanks."

- **Peri Nagappan, Georgia, USA**

"Hare Krishna. Thank you for sending the special edition of *Back To Prabhupāda*. I am very impressed with the content, it is something that should be shared. If you do not mind, I would also like to receive the book *The Final*

*Order*. Thank you very much and continue with your excellent service. *Hari Bol.*"

- **Ekanishtha Dāsa, Hidalgo, Mexico (translated from Spanish)**

"I have received *The Final Order* (in French), thank you. I have no guru, the only one I met was Śrīla Prabhupāda in the 1970s. I've never been initiated but I keep him as my spiritual master. I understand the ISKCONIRM approach and I approve if it's the truth. All glories to Śrīla Prabhupāda."

- **Bhakta Jean-Marie, Paris, France**

### Editor replies:

Yes, it is the truth, as the document you have received will prove. And how can one *not* approve of keeping Śrīla Prabhupāda as ISKCON's *Ācārya* and *dikṣā* guru, just as he ordered?

"I want to know the complete truth about ISKCON and Śrīla Prabhupāda."

- **Madhusudan Dev, Bangalore, India**

### Editor replies:

That is good. And for that you have come to the right place, as we give the complete truth about Śrīla Prabhupāda and ISKCON, in line with Śrīla Prabhupāda's own words.

"Hope the devotees who have fallen find faith again."

- **Tomislav Zivanovic, London, UK**

### Editor replies:

As attested to by the many letters we publish on these pages in every issue, by the grace of Śrīla Prabhupāda and Lord Krishna, we are indeed seeing that many devotees who had lost faith, have now found it again. They have discovered what Śrīla Prabhupāda's real teachings are, and how what happened in ISKCON had no connection to Śrīla Prabhupāda or his teachings. And they have learned the good news that Śrīla Prabhupāda lives, and that he is available today as everyone's *dikṣā* guru, just as he was when he was physically present.



# The Need to Read Śrīla Prabhupāda's Words

We have been asked why persons follow the guru hoax when Śrīla Prabhupāda's instructions on the issue are very clear. Unfortunately, the clarity of Śrīla Prabhupāda's instructions will not help if one refuses to read Śrīla Prabhupāda's words and instead relies on asking a guru hoaxer what Śrīla Prabhupāda said about the guru hoax! This is like asking a fox to make sure he has secured the henhouse! Below is a stunning example of this, involving GBC-elected guru hoaxer **HG Sankarshan Dāsa ("SAD")** and a prospective disciple of his. Extracts in the shaded boxes are taken from a lecture given by SAD in Kaunas, Lithuania, published on 7/2/16. All emphases added.

## I will ask the Fox

"So I have one student named David in the United States and here's a letter that I received from him: He says, 'Dear Srila Gurudev, [...] this devotee tells me to go to this website and read the free book *The Final Order*. I told this devotee I will ask my spiritual teacher about that book. [...] then he tells me that only Prabhupāda was spiritual master and that I should read the book before asking you about it. [...] So I said I will ask you first about it.'"

1) "David" is asked to read Śrīla Prabhupāda's words as presented in *The Final Order*, and thus see their misrepresentation by persons such as SAD.

2) He decides to not read these words, and instead ask the very person, SAD, who could potentially be misrepresenting these words, about these words!

Thus, having been told that the henhouse is under attack by the fox, he decides to "check" if this is the case, not by going and visiting the henhouse and seeing for himself, but by instead asking the person who could be the fox!

## Fox lies

"Śrīla Prabhupāda instructed us that after his departure, those of his disciples who are strictly following his instructions should also become spiritual masters and initiate disciples. Śrīla Prabhupāda personally encouraged me that I could become a spiritual master, and trained me how to be properly qualified to do so. So now on his order and with the blessings of ISKCON's Governing Body Commission, GBC, I'm initiating disciples all over the world."

In reply, Mr. Fox (SAD) not surprisingly tells his hapless student that the henhouse is not at risk at all! His claim that Śrīla Prabhupāda instructed:

"that after his departure, those of his disciples who are strictly following his instructions should also become spiritual masters and initiate disciples"

is a straightforward lie. One can check for oneself, and one will see that Śrīla Prabhupāda never orders anyone that "after my departure, initiate disciples". Nor does Śrīla Prabhupāda tell SAD that he should:

a) Become a *dikṣā* guru, and;

b) Do not become a *dikṣā* guru unless you get the necessary votes from the GBC, no matter how long this takes. (SAD had to wait almost 25 years before he followed this non-existent "order" from Śrīla Prabhupāda to become a "*dikṣā* guru"). Such a concocted hybrid order does not exist. Nor does order a) exist either.

## Foxy quote

"The *ritviks* say there is only one *Ācārya* and that is Śrīla Prabhupāda. But Prabhupāda told us in ISKCON, that in this movement, we will have ten million *Ācāryas*. He told us in a lecture in Māyāpura."

The fox actually does refer to a

real lecture:

**"we want to spread Kṛṣṇa consciousness. Simply prepare yourself how to repeat Kṛṣṇa's instructions very nicely, without any malinterpretation. Then, in future... Suppose you have got now ten thousand. We shall expand to hundred thousand. That is required. Then hundred thousand to million, and million to ten million. So there will be no scarcity of *ācārya*."**

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Lecture, 6/4/75)

However, with foxy cunning, SAD does not explain that the "*ācāryas*" Śrīla Prabhupāda refers to are not 10 million *dikṣā* gurus who would **replace** Śrīla Prabhupāda as **the *Ācārya*** (Founder and *Ācārya*/Founder-*Ācārya*) and *dikṣā* guru of ISKCON! Rather, it refers to followers of Krishna consciousness, as seen by the parts underlined above. And to be doubly sure, the very next day there is further questioning about this specific statement, and Śrīla Prabhupāda **confirms** it refers only to persons who take up Krishna consciousness, and not *dikṣā* gurus who will replace Śrīla Prabhupāda:

**Satsvarūpa:** "Śrīla Prabhupāda, sometimes you say only a very **small percentage can take to Kṛṣṇa consciousness.**"

**Śrīla Prabhupāda:** "Yes."

**Satsvarūpa:** "But yesterday morning in your lecture you were saying **it can expand to ten thousand, million, or ten million.**"

**Śrīla Prabhupāda:** "Yes, if you take the proper way it can be increased."

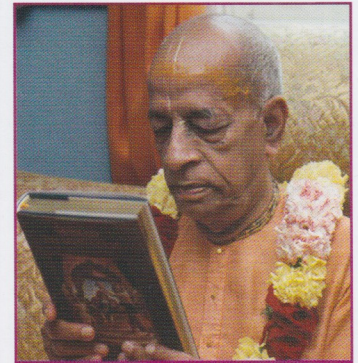
**Satsvarūpa:** "Is that just up to our preaching?"

**Śrīla Prabhupāda:** "Yes."

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Lecture, 7/4/75)

## Śrīla Prabhupāda's words

"These people have their own magazine, they call it *Back To Prabhupāda*. And on every page it's simply blasphemy against ISKCON leaders."



**Śrīla Prabhupāda:**  
We must read his words directly

If "David" read Śrīla Prabhupāda's words directly, and *Back To Prabhupāda*, rather than receiving a self-serving misrepresentation from the Fox, he would find that Śrīla Prabhupāda always speaks about blasphemy in terms of making false, not truthful, statements:

**"They'll concoct, manufacture some blasphemy against you."**

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Lecture, 4/9/73)

Thus, making truthful statements about ISKCON "leaders" as found "on every page" of *Back To Prabhupāda* is not blasphemy. It's just the truth.

## Conclusion

Śrīla Prabhupāda states very clearly that in order to learn about Krishna consciousness, and have one's questions answered, one needs to consult Śrīla Prabhupāda **directly** by reading his books:

**"In conjunction with this you should always read my books daily and all your questions will be answered and you will have a firm basis of Krishna Consciousness. In this way your life will be perfect."**

(Śrīla Prabhupāda Letter, 22/11/74)

Śrīla Prabhupāda never says that we should skip reading his words, and instead just ask some self-interested fox about them. Otherwise we will be misled by those who want us to learn about Śrīla Prabhupāda's teachings not through *his* words, but *their* false words instead.



## IRM and Academia Review

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Alas, true to form, ISKCON authorities then informed the scholars that neither IRM devotees, nor IRM's paper on ISKCON's 50th anniversary, would be allowed at the conference. So much for ISKCON's openness to academic inquiry! However, the opening speech, which was sent to us by the academic who delivered it, did mention the IRM and the issues its paper raises. An example:

**"[...] this issue has also inspired the separate ISKCON Revival Movement, who argue that ISKCON's leadership has deviated too far from Prabhupada's original vision to be legitimate."**

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Yet he is acting today as the "Managing Director" for ISKCON's largest temple in Europe. He is also Executive Secretary to ISKCON's Governing Body Commission (GBC). Not only that, but he was selected by ISKCON to represent them as a panellist at this very conference!

This is the same Gauri Dāsa who, by the way, had banned devotees from worshipping at Bhaktivedanta Manor simply for agreeing with the IRM (see *BTP* 7).

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## Jayādvaita Swami

GBC-elected guru, HH Jayādvaita Swami ("JAS") writes regarding fellow GBC-elected guru Romapāda Swami ("RPS"): "Śivarāma Swami, at the GBC's midterm meeting in October, had put forward a proposal for the permission to sell be reconsidered at this year's annual Mayāpur meeting. The proposal was accepted. Romapāda Swami, the GBC man for New York, was present at the meeting. In fact, two GBC members had both confirmed that they had dealt directly with Romapāda Swami in October about reviewing the Brooklyn sale one more time at the 2016 annual meeting and that Romapāda Swami had accepted. What Romapāda Swami kept secret was that in mid-September he and the others had already signed a contract to sell."

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Hence, JAS clearly believes that RPS has behaved diplomatically and duplicitously, having agreed to discuss whether or not the Brooklyn temple sale should go forward, when he had already agreed to the sale and deliberately kept it secret.

JAS also states:

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All of these behaviours mean that, according to the following GBC "Mandatory Qualifications" for being a GBC *dikṣā* guru, RPS is not qualified to be a *dikṣā* guru:

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Yet, JAS refuses to accept the logic of his own conclusions and instead accepts that RPS is still a 'good as God' *dikṣā* guru. It is ironic that JAS used to run a "seminar" for ISKCON devotees called "Straight Thinking, Strong Speaking". His illogical stance regarding RPS means that he should now give a seminar titled "Muddled Thinking, Weak Speaking"!

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Hence, regardless of whether or not the GBC's claims are merited, they clearly believe that BVKS is deviating from the mission of ISKCON and Śrīla Prabhupāda's teachings. All these behaviours mean that, according to the following GBC "Mandatory Qualifications" for being a GBC *dikṣā* guru, BVKS is not qualified to be a *dikṣā* guru:

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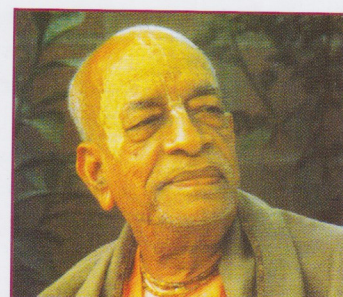
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Thus, by the same GBC resolution quoted in the last section, BVKS should also be calling for all GBC members who are *dikṣā* gurus to be removed as *dikṣā* gurus (as well as from the GBC). Because he clearly believes that they do not have an "understanding of and dedication to Śrīla Prabhupāda's mission". Yet, he refuses to do so, accepting instead that the same body which is responsible for ISKCON deviating on such a mass scale, is also qualified to both authorise and act themselves as bona fide *dikṣā* gurus. (Two-thirds of the GBC are 'good as God' *dikṣā* gurus).



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Hence, certain ISKCON leaders themselves are claiming that many of their gurus are deviants, but they still maintain that they are gurus. This is not surprising, since many of these same leaders are GBC gurus themselves. Hence, they all share the same aim of keeping this unauthorised GBC guru program alive and kicking at all costs.

ISKCON's leaders already claim that their gurus who "fall down" were still gurus before they "fell", because according to them, bona fide gurus can fall down. Now, they have gone one step further, and are claiming that their gurus are still qualified to remain as gurus even whilst they are deviating! However, Śrīla Prabhupāda teaches that a bona fide guru does not deviate at all:

**"A bona fide spiritual master is in the discipic succession from time eternal, and he does not deviate at all".**

(Bg., 4.42)

But ISKCON's leaders will happily jettison both Śrīla Prabhupāda's teachings and the logic of their own conclusions, if it threatens their false guru program in any way.



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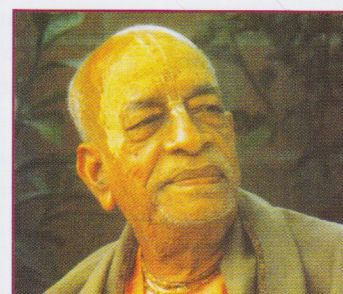
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c) If the entire leadership is responsible for mass deviation, then they are also deviants.

Hence, certain ISKCON leaders themselves are claiming that many of their gurus are deviants, but they still maintain that they are gurus. This is not surprising, since many of these same leaders are GBC gurus themselves. Hence, they all share the same aim of keeping this unauthorised GBC guru program alive and kicking at all costs.

ISKCON's leaders already claim that their gurus who "fall down" were still gurus before they "fell", because according to them, bona fide gurus can fall down. Now, they have gone one step further, and are claiming that their gurus are still qualified to remain as gurus even whilst they are deviating! However, Śrīla Prabhupāda teaches that a bona fide guru does not deviate at all:

**"A bona fide spiritual master is in the disciplic succession from time eternal, and he does not deviate at all"**

(Bg., 4.42)

But ISKCON's leaders will happily jettison both Śrīla Prabhupāda's teachings and the logic of their own conclusions, if it threatens their false guru program in any way.



# Taking Credit For Śrīla Prabhupāda's Work

On page 3 of this issue, we referred to the inappropriate use of the honorific title "His Divine Grace" by HH Hridayānanda Dāsa Goswami, which was even added into the first printing of the last cantos of the *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*. Realising the inappropriateness of ISKCON's GBC gurus using this term and thus claiming to be on the same level as Śrīla Prabhupāda, even the GBC specifically amended their rules so that this term was banned from being used in **any way whatsoever** by or for any of their so-called *dikṣā* gurus, whereas previously it was only banned from being used **publicly**:

**"C. ISKCON law 6.4.8.2, "Restricted Titles," now reads:**

**"A guru cannot use or allow his disciples to apply to him the honorific title "His Divine Grace" or the honorific endings in "pāda" in written public documents or on open public forum. However, such titles may be used in communication among disciples or from disciples to their guru."**

**It shall be amended to read:**

**"No one in ISKCON will be addressed either publicly or privately with honorific title "His Divine Grace" or the honorifics ending in "-pāda".**

**Disciples may address their ISKCON *dikṣā* or *śikṣā* gurus as "Gurudeva" or "Guru-mahārāja"."**

(GBC Resolution, 406, 1999)

Yet, we quoted GBC-elected guru HH Śivārāma Swami on page 4 glorifying another (now deceased) ISKCON guru, HH Tamāla Krishna Goswami, as: **"His Divine Grace Tamal Krishna Goswami Mahārāja"**. A repeat offender in this regard is GBC-elected guru HH Bhakti Charu Swami ("BCS"). In BTP 33, we documented BCS insisting that he be promoted as being on the same level as Śrīla Prabhupāda by ordering that glorification of himself as "His Divine Grace" be broadcast to others. This mood of BCS allowing himself to be thought of as "His Divine Grace" and on the same level as Śrīla Prabhupāda is rendered absurd, when we consider that BCS states:

**"Remain fixed up in Krishna Consciousness within ISKCON and follow Śrīla Prabhupāda's guidance. Read Śrīla Prabhupāda books very very carefully and follow the instructions of Śrīla Prabhupāda. Everything is there in Śrīla Prabhupāda's books. There is nothing new I can say. I will simply repeat Śrīla Prabhupāda's instructions. That is my responsibility as his representative."**

(BCS Lecture, 2/10/08)

Thus, he is supposedly on the same level as Śrīla Prabhupāda, and also worshipped as a 'good as God' *dikṣā* guru, because he tells us to read Śrīla Prabhupāda's books, and does not offer anything himself! In doing this, he is, therefore, no different from any congregational supporter, life member or devotee connected with ISKCON who simply directs people to read Śrīla Prabhupāda's books. Yet, unlike these other persons who will accept that doing this does not in any way change their lowly position subordinate to Śrīla Prabhupāda, BCS is demanding that in his case it means:

- a) He has replaced Śrīla Prabhupāda as a successor *dikṣā* guru.
- b) He is on the same level as Śrīla Prabhupāda (as "His Divine Grace").

Similarly, another GBC-elected guru, HH Kadamba Kānana Swami ("KKS") states:

**"Sometimes, we may feel that our spiritual master is not really giving us a lot of instruction and he is not really telling us something special. That means, he just wants us to do the regular things like daily chanting sixteen rounds of *japa* and following four regulative principles – no meat, fish or eggs; no gambling; no intoxication; no illicit sex. It means that he wants us to learn the regular principles of prescribed practice for every devotee. It means that he wants us to rise early in the morning, preferably during *brāhma-muhūrta*. It means that he wants us to study especially *Bhagavad-gītā* and *Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam*."**

(KKS Lecture, 6/4/15)

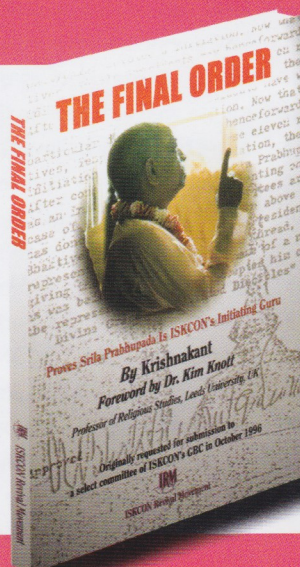
So KKS gives the same instructions that his "disciples" get from Śrīla Prabhupāda's books—chant 16 rounds, follow the 4 regulative principles, wake up early—and indeed they are told to read Śrīla Prabhupāda's books. Yet, just for KKS doing this, his "disciple" must worship KKS as good as God, while rejecting Śrīla Prabhupāda as his actual spiritual master!

**Śrīla Prabhupāda does the work, GBC guru gets worshipped as good as God —GBC's nonsensical, so-called "*guru-tattva*" in a nut-shell.**

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